



Immunizations

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Central District Health Department

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THE SHOT LINE

It's Flu Season – Are You Ready?

No one knows what this flu season will be like, so everyone should consider getting a flu shot, especially those in high-risk groups. By protecting yourself, you also protect your family, friends and coworkers, including those who are elderly or have underlying health conditions that makes the flu dangerous for them.



Central District Health is following Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommendations and trying to provide flu vaccine to people in certain high-risk groups first.

Priority groups include:

- People aged 65 years and older, with and without chronic health conditions
- Residents of long-term care facilities
- People aged 2-64 years with chronic health conditions
- Children aged 6-23 months
- Pregnant women
- Health-care personnel who provide direct patient care
- Household contacts and out-of-home caregivers of children less than 6 months of age

Protect your family, friends & coworkers.



Got Questions? – Call The Shot Line



Call 321-BABY to get answers!!! This service provides physicians, nursing personnel, childcare providers, and school nurses a direct line to an immunization nurse who will provide immediate answers to your immunization questions (i.e. scheduling, timing, storage and handling, vaccine errors, etc.)

You can access this line by dialing **321-BABY (321-2229)**. This line will be answered during regular business hours, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.



CDHD.IDAHO.GOV

Whom To Contact:

For medical questions about vaccines for children (VFC) (schedules, updates, vaccine storage and handling, etc. please contact:

Teresa Phillips, LPN
Medical Provider Liaison
327-8518
tphillip@cdhd.idaho.gov

For user support & training of IRIS; how IRIS can benefit your clinic practice or daycare; or to schedule a demonstration of IRIS, please contact:

Leanna Davis
Registry Provider Liaison
869-9118
ldavis@cdhd.idaho.gov

For general immunization / registry questions or concerns, please contact:

Cindy Howarth, RN
Immunization Program Manager
327-8524
chowarth@cdhd.idaho.gov

Teresa's Corner



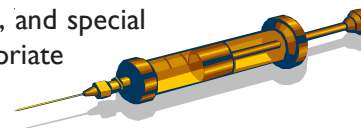
Teresa Phillips

Expanded Hepatitis A Vaccine Recommendations

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) announced in October that the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) has expanded their previous recommendations for hepatitis A vaccination for children. The recommendation for vaccination of all children between one and two years of age will be integrated into the routine childhood vaccination schedule once the recommendation is published in the Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR). This recommendation followed approval, in August 2005, by the U. S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for the use of VAQTA (Merck's hepatitis A vaccine) in children **12 months of age and older**. Prior to this announcement, hepatitis A vaccine was not available for children under two years of age. Recently, the FDA also approved the expanded use of Havrix (GlaxoSmithKline's hepatitis A vaccine) for children **12 months of age and older**.

The expanded indications for VAQTA and Havrix will allow healthcare providers to vaccinate younger children against hepatitis A, and may help to further reduce the incidence of hepatitis A in the United States, particularly among young children who often transmit the disease to others.

The Idaho Immunization Program (IIP) will notify providers when Vaccines For Children (VFC) funding allows implementation of the new expanded recommendations for state supplied hepatitis A vaccine. However, providers should be aware that some children may come to their practice having received Hepatitis A vaccine prior to age two, and special consideration may need to be given to appropriate timing of the second dose.



MMR and HIB

Attached is information pertaining to vaccines administered too early or at less than minimum intervals, specifically MMR and HIB.

"In clinical practice, vaccine doses occasionally are administered at intervals less than the minimum interval or at ages younger than the minimum age. Doses administered too close together or at too young an age can lead to a **suboptimal immune response**. However, administering a dose a limited number of days earlier than the minimum interval or age is unlikely to have a substantially negative effect on the immune response to that dose. Therefore, ACIP recommends that vaccine doses administered less than 4 days before the minimum interval or age be counted as valid. Doses administered greater than 5 days earlier than the minimum interval or age **should not** be counted as valid doses and should be repeated as age-appropriate." (Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report dated February 8, 2002 / Vol. 51 / No. RR-2)

Menactra alert!

On September 30, 2005, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) alerted consumers and health care providers to five reports of Guillain Barre Syndrome (GBS) following administration of Meningococcal Conjugate Vaccine A, C, Y, and W135 (trade name Menactra), manufactured by Sanofi Pasteur. It is not known yet whether these cases were caused by the vaccine or are coincidental. Because of the potentially serious nature of this matter, FDA and CDC are sharing this information and asking all persons with knowledge of any possible cases of GBS occurring after Menactra to

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report them to the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS) to help the agencies further evaluate the matter. Individuals can report to VAERS on the web at www.vaers.hhs.gov or by phone at 1-800-822-7967.

Tdap is now available

There are two new products now available as single dose booster vaccines to provide protection against tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis. GlaxoSmithKline's BOOSTRIX is indicated for persons aged 10-18 years, and Sanofi Pasteur's ADACEL is indicated for persons aged 11-64 years. On June 30, 2005 the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) voted to recommend the routine use of Tdap vaccines in adolescents aged 11-18 years in place of tetanus and diphtheria toxoid (Td) vaccines.

Pertussis is a highly contagious respiratory tract infection and immunity from childhood vaccination wanes over time leaving adolescents susceptible. The Idaho Immunization Program now supplies Tdap for VFC eligible children. Central District Health Department administers both state and district supplied vaccine to meet the needs of all age appropriate persons.



Leanna Davis

Leanna's Corner

Recently, CDHD has received several calls regarding IRIS passwords not working. Remember, passwords automatically expire every 180 days. So, if you are not using IRIS daily, it might be a good idea to mark your calendars so you know when it is time to change your password.

Passwords must be at least 2 characters and must be in lower case. To change your password, log into IRIS as usual, then, scroll down to "change password" on the left hand side of your screen. Next, type in your old password, then tab and enter your new password; tab again, and re-enter your new password. It is a good idea to write your new password down and keep it in a safe and secure place.

When logging into IRIS, it is best that you don't have the system remember your password. This decreases the security of IRIS and makes it more difficult for you to change your password, when it's time. It is preferable to write it down and store it in a safe place.

On October 12, IRIS was upgraded to the latest software version. This resulted in the system being down briefly that day. Please let us know if you are still experiencing any difficulties with this upgrade. We appreciate your patience as we work together to ensure that IRIS is a secure and accurate immunization registry. If you have any questions please email me at ldavis@cdhd.idaho.gov or give me a call at 869-9118. Thank you!

IRIS Frequently Asked Questions...and Answers:

Q. How will patients know that their providers are IRIS providers and support IRIS?

A. We have had several questions from parents asking if their providers are IRIS providers. All medical providers have been sent desk plaques and wall decals to indicate that they are IRIS providers. Please use these tools so your patients can be assured that their records are getting into IRIS. If you're an IRIS provider who hasn't yet received your plaque and/or decals please contact one of your provider liaisons.

Q. What number should I use to fax information to CDHD?

A. You can fax all IRIS information to CDHD at 327-8554, please attach a cover sheet showing attention to IRIS or to whomever you are faxing.

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IRIS Frequently Asked Questions...and Answers:

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Q. If I have a change in staff that has IRIS access, should I notify you of the change?

A. Yes! In order to keep IRIS secure, we need to deactivate those staff members who are no longer working in your office. Please call your IRIS liaisons, notifying them of any new staff that may need IRIS access as well. Together, we can keep IRIS secure and confidential.

Q. How do I enter Pediarix vaccine in IRIS? Do I specify Pediarix or enter each antigen separately as Dtap, IPV, and Hep B?

A. If the patient receives Pediarix, please specify that by selecting the Dtap/Hep B/IPV option. If the patient did not receive Pediarix, specify which vaccine was actually given. Avoid using the “unspecified” option with any vaccine. Many patients move from one provider to another to get immunizations and, if the “unspecified” option is used, it is unclear which vaccine was administered and what the next appropriate dose should be.

KUDOS....

Happy trails to Kathy Holley, Director, Central District Health Department. Kathy retired on October 27th, after 30 years of public health service. Prior to her appointment as District Director, Kathy served as Immunization Supervisor and Nursing Director. Throughout her career, Kathy has been a strong advocate for immunizations and children. Kudos for the work she has done and best wishes for a healthy and happy retirement!

